

Serial No.: 10/533,863
Group Art Unit No.: 1744

REMARKS

This Amendment is made in response to the Official Action mailed May 22, 2007. A request for a two-month extension of time accompanies this Amendment. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-13, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 4, 14 and 15 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-13 and 16-23 are now pending in this application. Amendments to the specification have been made in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions by inserting appropriate section headings and amending the incorrect patent numbers recited in the Background section. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to and rejections of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments, and further, in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for various reasons, in particular, for certain terms lacking antecedent basis. Applicant urges that the rejected claims have been appropriately amended and are now in sufficient condition under Section 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,802,656, granted September 8, 1998, to Dawson et al. ("Dawson"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to clarify that one or more of the middle or lateral sections is connected to the grip handle by an integral resiliently flexible neck. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by Dawson. Because Dawson does not disclose each and every element of claims 1-14 and 20, the claims cannot be said to be anticipated by Dawson. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-14 and 20 under §102(b) are requested.

Claims 1-2 and 5-12 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent D440,404, granted April 17, 2001, to Naslund ("Naslund"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Again, Applicant submits that claims 1 has been amended in order to clarify that one or more of the middle or lateral sections is connected to the grip handle by an integral resiliently flexible neck. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by Naslund. Because Naslund does not disclose each and every element of claims 1-2 and 5-12 the claims cannot be said to be anticipated by Naslund. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2 and 5-12 under §102(b) are requested.

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Claims 3, 14-20 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Naslund in view of U.S. Patent 6,353,958, granted March 12, 2002, to Weihrauch ("Weihrauch") and the present specification, at page 8, lines 16-21. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to clarify that there is only one intermediate pad, only one first link region and only one second link region. These features are neither taught nor suggested by any fair combination of Naslund, Weihrauch and the present specification. Therefore, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under Section 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Dawson in view of U.S. Patent Application 2001/0042280, published November 22, 2001, to Moskovich et al. ("Moskovich"). Claim 21 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Naslund in view of Moskovich. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20, which depends from amended claim 1. As discussed above, amended claim 1 is patentable over any combination of Dawson, Moskovich and/or Naslund. By virtue of its dependency on claim 20 and claim 1, claim 21 is also patentable over these same references.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-13, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23, favorable reconsideration of claims 8, 17, 19 and 21, and allowance of this application with claims 1-3, 5-13 and 16-23 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nora Stein-Fernandez".

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